

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 05555 251327Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 HA-05 IO-13 PM-05 NSC-05
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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 05555

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IS, JO, XF
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION ON WEST BANK WITH ABU ODEH

REF: AMMAN 5086

1. IN GENERAL DISCUSSION OF ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUES ON
JUNE 25 ADNAN ABU ODEH, MINISTER OF INFORMATION WITH
RESPONSIBILITY FOR WEST BANK AFFAIRS IN GOJ, TOLD CHARGE
THAT HE BELIEVES ISRAEL IS IMPLEMENTING BEGIN PLAN ON
WEST BANK, ALTHOUGH VERY SLOWLY. AS ILLUSTRATION HE CITED
ISRAELI REGULATION WHICH WENT INTO EFFECT JAN. 1, 1978,
WHICH WOULD REQUIRE ALL HEALTH PERSONNEL ON WEST BANK TO
RECEIVE PROFESSIONAL LICENSE FROM ISRAELI OFFICIAL.
FORMERLY, HE SAID, LICENSES WERE GRANTED, ACCORDING TO
JORDANIAN LAW, BY PROFESSIONAL SYNDICATES AND GOJ MINISTRY
OF HEALTH.

2. HE SAID RESISTANCE BY HEALTH PERSONNEL HAD FORCED
ISRAELIS TO PUT OFF IMPLEMENTATION UNTIL AUGUST 1, AND
ONLY HANDFUL OF NEW HEALTH PERSONNEL HAD ACCEPTED ISRAELI
LICENSING. HE BELIEVED FULL IMPLEMENTATION MIGHT WELL
HAVE TO BE FURTHER DELAYED IF ALL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
RESISTED MEASURE TOGETHER THROUGH SYNDICATES.

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3. ABU ODEH ALSO CONFIRMED ESTABLISHMENT OF DIRECTOR
GENERAL SYSTEM MENTIONED REFTEL. HE SAID DIRECTOR GENERAL
WOULD NOT REPORT TO JORDANIAN MINISTRIES AND ISRAELI MOVE
SEEMED DESIGNED TO SEVER GOJ FROM VARIOUS SERVICES ON WEST
BANK. ABU ODEH INTERPRETED THESE ISRAELI MEASURES AS
MOVES TOWARD CHANGING STATUS OF WEST BANK FROM OCCUPIED

JORDANIAN TERRITORY TO DEPENDENCY OF ISRAEL, OR AT LEAST
AN "AUTONOMOUS" BEGIN PLAN ENTITY.

4. ABU ODEH SAID "SOFT LINE" OF NEW ISRAELI MILGOV AND
DEFMIN WEIZMAN WAS ISRAELI INTERNAL POLITICAL PLOY -- AN
EFFORT BY WEIZMAN TO APPEAR AS THE MAN WHO CAN HANDLE WEST
BANK ARABS, IN CONTRAST WITH BEGIN'S MANIFEST UNPOPULAR-
ITY ON THE WEST BANK. IN THIS CONNECTION, ABU ODEH SAYS
RETURN TO WEST BANK OF EXILES DR. AHMAD HAMZEH NATSHEH,
PNC MEMBER FROM HEBRON WHO WAS DEPORTED FROM HEBRON TWO
YEARS AGO AND HEBRON MUFTI SHAIKH ABD AL-HAYY 'ARAFEH
(WHICH REPORTED IN AMMAN PRESS JUNE 25) WAS PART OF THIS
PLOY. HE NOTED HEBRON MAYOR WHO HAD REQUESTED REPATRIA-
TION HAD MADE REPATRIATION PART OF HIS MAYORALITY CAMPAIGN
AND WEIZMAN PROBABLY AGREED TO IT AS GESTURE OF
CONCILIATION TO HEBRON MAYOR.SUDDARTH

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